

REPORT OF MCO WORKING GROUP

1. Description of scope of subject matter covered by MCO group
2. List of UEC members in MCO group as members or convenor
3. Action items
 - A. Recent actions (Maui meeting plans)
 - B. Current actions (Video conferencing survey)
 - C. Future actions (Annual user's meeting)
(Spring UEC meeting Dallas)
(Outreach to wider community)

Description of Scope of Subject Matter Covered by MCO Group

- (a) Plans for annual user's meeting (June 2006)
- (b) Plans for semi-annual UEC meetings (Maui and Dallas)
- (c) Plans for quarterly open forums and monthly UEC meetings
- (d) Works with user center on web pages
- (e) Responsible for communication with users
- (f) Should work on producing data bank of materials to be used for outreach to larger community (small colleges and community organizations?)

List of UEC Members in MCO

Abhay Deshpande

Matthias Grosse-Perdekamp

John Hill (convenor)

Brant Johnson

Michael Lisa (workshops annual meeting?)

Sevil Salur

Michael Sivertz (open forums)

Carla Vale

Susan White-DePace

(outreach and communications?)

3 A. Preparations for Maui UEC Meeting

Where: Plantation Room 2

Ritz Carlton Hotel, Kapalua, Maui

When: Tuesday, 9-20-05

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Maui UEC Meeting Agenda

9:00 – 10:30 Coffee and Danish

9:00 -- 9:10 Overview Brant Johnson

9:10 --- 9:20 Political Action Plans John Hill

9:20 --- 9:40 Plans for Improvement Angelika Drees
of the RHIC Complex
Over the Next Few Years

9:40 – 10:20 Open Forum

10:20 –10:40 Closing Remarks Brant Johnson

Other Plans

Will take flyer to Maui so can be distributed at registration.

Other needs and suggestions?

3 B. Survey of UEC on Video Conferencing

1. The Survey Questions

- A. Do you participate in video conferencing?
- B. Do you use VRVS for video conferencing?
- C. What have been your experiences with VRVS?
- D. Would you favor using VRVS for video conferencing from remote sites?
- E. If not VRVS what have been your experiences with other systems?
- F. Angela at the RHIC-AGS User's Center has explored the options for video conferencing and has come up with two options. What has been your experience with either of these two options? Would either of these options fit your needs?

Response to Questionnaire

Sent out Tuesday

Got 8 responses

Summary (mine) of responses given below.

A. Do you participate in video conferencing?

5 answered yes

Jim → Use in past in STAR, now conference phone only.

Carla → Used in past.

Sevil → Interested to try.

B. Do you use VRVS for video conferencing?

5 yes, 2 no

Jim → no, used ESNET on ISDN lines, now replaced by H.320/H.323 over internet.

C. What have been your experiences with VRVS?

No experience, 3 people

Matthias → good each person uses own workstation but poor to transmit from meeting room.

George → mixed quality but overall reasonably good

Michael → generally good but glitches

Carla → good if equipment and operators good, best only two sites

D. Would you favor using VRVS for video conferencing from remote sites?

Yes 3, Sevil said like more interactive

No answer 2

Gary → no, not now

George → yes but need audio (phone bridge) backup. Can use Polycom and tie phone line into video conference so can have people on VRVS and phone bridge all talking.

Matthias → no, video conference not efficient with present technology. PHENIX gave it up mostly. Better to have phone conference and post slides on conference web server.

E. If not VRVS what have been your experiences with other systems?

George → no systems seem superior, limited experience

Michael → video conference poor experience

Sevil → web cam, 2 parties, limited by ethernet speed

Matthias → BNL video conference rooms not very satisfactory.

Jim → long and useful discussion, prefers video to phone conferences. Problems, people far from microphone, hard remote people to get leaders attention, good if all presentations linked directly from one website or email. Brings up several other problems and comments has sat through several bad conferences.

F. Angela at the RHIC-AGS User's Center has explored the options for video conferencing and has come up with two options. What has been your experience with either of these two options? Would either of these options fit your needs?

Carla → Steinberg in BNL-chem. Has good working system

Gary → 1st choice better, 2nd highly dependent on computer and may not deliver

Matthias → Each person bring laptop to meeting with logitech camera for each. No good technology to capture and broadcast meeting room activity.

George → Uses Polycom for video. VRVS has Windows clients allows person without camera to hear and see others. Anyone with laptop can participate in video conference without fancy equipment.

My Summary

- A. Majority participate in video conferencing.
- B. Most use VRVS.
- C. Experience generally good if equipment good and people experienced.
- D. Slight majority favors VRVS from remote sites but Matthias (not efficient) and Gary not favor. George thinks will work with audio backup.
- E. Experiences with video conferencing mostly negative. Jim prefers video to phone conferences but points out many potential problems.
- F. Steinberg has working system. Gary likes 1st choice best. Matthias suggests each person laptop with logitec camera. George, VRVS has Windows clients. Can use laptop for video without fancy equipment